

Gen. Myers comes to Bagram



Photo by Sgt. Greg Heath

On the fifth stop on his tour of military operations in the Middle East, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers arrives at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, yesterday to meet with CJTF-180 leadership to discuss a range of operational issues. While in Bagram, Myers also held a press conference.

Story by Freedom Watch Staff

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – The United States' highest-ranking military officer, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers visited Bagram Air Base yesterday as part of his tour of Middle Eastern and Asian Coalition military operations.

While in Bagram, Myers held a meeting with Combined Joint Task Force 180 leadership to discuss a range of issues, and he also held a press conference for local and international media.

Myers opened the press conference with a statement that included messages of the missions success here and statements about his confidence in the coalition forces.

"Through the efforts of Combined Joint Task Force 180 the stability of Afghanistan

See **MYERS**, Page 3

Touring Afghanistan: realizing the need

Story and photos by Sgt. Stephanie Hall
4th Public Affairs Detachment

(Touring Afghanistan is a two-part series of Mary Jo Myers' tour of Afghanistan.)

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Mary Jo Myers, wife of Gen. Richard Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Afghanistan yesterday along with her husband. She has been accompanying her husband on his trips to Baghdad, Pakistan, Qatar, India and Afghanistan.

But while her husband addressed military affairs, Myers toured various places

around Afghanistan to get a feel for the shape the country and the people are in. She toured the U.S. hospital on Bagram Air Field, Gardez, an outpost in Northern Afghanistan, and Kabul where she visited a women's hospital and an orphanage.

It was the daily life at the hospital and orphanage in Kabul that drew a picture of Afghanistan's need for rebuilding.

The Rabia Balkhi Womens Hospital, impressed on Myers the need for humanity, she said. At the entrance to the hospital compound, dozens of Afghan women and young girls waited to be let in for medical treatment.



Mary Jo Myers, wife of Gen. Richard Myers, donates school supplies to the Alla-Uddin Ophanage.

See **NEED**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



"No doubt in my mind that Saddam Hussein was a threat to U.S. security," Bush said.

Iraqi official: Saddam no longer a threat

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The first official to hold the rotating presidency of the Iraqi Governing Council said Wednesday that Saddam Hussein is no longer a threat to the country.

"Saddam Hussein is no longer. He ended as soon as his regime ended. He is a person who is in hiding somewhere, and it is just a matter of time" before he is gone, said Ibrahim al Jafari, a leader of the Islamic Da'wah Party that the U.S.-sponsored interim council chose to be its first leader Wednesday.

A nine-member panel from the Iraqi Governing Council will share the rotating presidency. Each president will serve 30-day terms.

The council includes Sunni and Shiite Muslims and Kurds.

Jafari, a Shiite, will be followed by Ahmed Chalabi of the Iraqi National Congress and Iyad Allawi, a former Baathist and longtime member of the exiled Iraqi opposition.

Jafari said that Saddam — a member of the Sunni minority that dominated Iraq before the war — damaged every family in the country.

Jafari said Iraqis "look forward to leading themselves."

He said he hopes the establishment of a permanent government will "not take much time."

Eleven African nations join U.S.-backed task force

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia – Eleven African nations have agreed to set up a U.S.-

backed regional task force to respond to disasters and terrorist attacks, a senior U.S. military officer said Wednesday.

The role of the task force will be to "provide the basis of a response to react once a terrorist attack has taken place," as well as to respond to other disasters such as floods and airplane crashes, said Gen. John Abizaid, head of U.S. Central Command.

Ethiopia, Eritrea, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, the Seychelles, Tanzania and Uganda agreed at a two-day conference in Addis Ababa to be part of the task force.

Details about the task force are sketchy, and it is not clear when or where it would be set up. Officials from the 11 countries are due to discuss the task force further in September.



Nigerian Brig. Gen. Festus Okwonkwo salutes U.S. Ambassador John Blaney after arriving in Monrovia Wednesday.

Liberia battles rage as West African team arrives

MONROVIA, Liberia – West African military experts arrived in Liberia on Wednesday to prepare for the deployment of a peacekeeping force even as rebels and government forces fought fierce battles for control of the country's two biggest cities.

The long-awaited peacekeeping mission flew in from Ghana and was expected to remain until Saturday to work out the logistics of deploying a vanguard force of some 1,500 Nigerian troops.

In New York, the United States introduced a draft U.N. Security Council resolution to authorize a peacekeeping force, preparing for any future U.S. and U.N. deployment in Liberia.

The resolution would give a U.N. mandate to the West African troops or those from other countries, such as the United States. It would also pave the way for a U.N. peacekeeping operation to take over in October.

West African pledges to send peacekeepers have been hobbled by haggling over who should pay and concerns about the fighting. Two Nigerian battalions are on standby but no date has been set.



Police identified the suspect as Donna L. Walker.

Missing girl claim a 'cruel hoax'

THORNTOWN, Indiana – Authorities say the woman who called the parents of a 6-year-old girl missing since 1986 was "the perpetrator of a cruel hoax."

The woman who claimed to be the now-grown girl has been identified as Donna L. Walker, 35, according to Indiana State Police 1st Sgt. Dave Bursten.

He said an arrest warrant has been issued charging Walker with felony identity deception and misdemeanor false reporting.

"We are seeking help from the public across the land to look for this woman," said Bursten, noting that her last known address was Topeka, Kan.

"This has been a very cruel hoax for the family," Bursten told reporters, adding it has been "emotional, physically, mentally exhausted the immediate and extended family of Shannon Sherrill."

The girl's father, Mike Sherrill, said he took the news of the alleged hoax "real hard," breaking down in sobs while talking to reporters.

MYERS, from Page 1



Photo by Sgt. Greg Heath

Myers takes questions from the media during the press conference.

grows daily," Myers said. "And this stability allows the people of Afghanistan to raise their families in security and to prosper more than they have in the past."

Myers answered questions about the length of a U.S. forces presence in Afghanistan by stating goals that needed to be met before the U.S. would withdraw – including free elections and a fully functioning Afghan government able to provide security to its citizens. "U.S. and coalition partners are prepared to be here as long as it takes," he said.

Myers said that although he thought the security situation in Afghanistan is currently better than the situation in Iraq, "there are still a lot of challenges out there and there is a lot of danger. The troops participating in the operation today are very courageous folks."

The U.S. military's top officer went on to say that he believed the war in Iraq didn't divert resources from the mission in Afghanistan, but in fact enhanced the global mission of stamping out terrorism.

"I don't think the war in Iraq has taken any of the resources away from the fight against international terrorism – specifically al Qaeda," Myers said. "In fact I think the effort in Iraq has been very complementary. This is all about the war on terrorism."

Prior to his stop here, Myers had visited operations in Baghdad, Pakistan, Qatar, and India.

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "I-Spy."

Based on the 1960's television series I Spy. A professional athlete (boxer - Eddie Murphy) has to help a U.S. government agent recover a missing jet.



Tomorrow's movie will be "Friday After Next."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Friday
Bagram:	Mostly clear H: 100F L: 68F	Mostly clear H: 99F L: 68F
Kandahar:	Dusty H: 108F L: 84F	Dusty H: 108F L: 84F
Kabul:	Dusty H: 97F L: 70F	Haze H: 97F L: 70F
Uzbekistan:	Clear H: 102F L: 65F	Clear H: 105F L: 65F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180, and is published daily, Monday - Saturday.

CJTF-180 Commander —

Maj. Gen. John R. Vines

CJTF-180 Command Sergeant Major —

Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Carey

Public Affairs Officer —

Col. Rodney Davis

Public Affairs Sergeant Major —

Sgt. Maj. Harrison Sarles

Freedom Watch, an Army newspaper



publication, is produced by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Commander — Maj. Matthew L. Garner

NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson

Editor — Sgt. Johnny A. Thompson

Journalists — Sgt. Stephanie Hall,

Sgt. Gregory Heath, Pfc. Kelly Hunt

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of Freedom Watch are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

All submissions are subject to editing for size and content by the 4th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Motel 6, CJTF-180, Bagram Air Base.

Visit the CENTCOM web site at www.centcom.mil and click on the Freedom Watch or Forces in Afghanistan link at the bottom of the page to get to the Freedom Watch. To be added to the daily distribution list e-mail ThompsonJ@baf.cjtf180.army.mil

NEED, from Page 1

In the hospital itself, a handful of doctors and nurses struggled to keep up with the demands of injuries, sicknesses and pregnancies.

"There are about 120 babies born at the hospital everyday, and about 120 beds allotted for the entire maternity ward," said Habiba Sarabi, Minister of Women's Affairs, through an interpreter. That means that the babies have to be moved out the day they are born in order to make room for incoming pregnancies.

The quiet corridors of the hospital disguised the fact that each room was filled beyond any hope of patient privacy.

The hospital itself "is what one would expect of a third world country," said Myers.

"It's just that we get a totally different mind set from anything we've seen before, so you have to be very touched and impressed by the staff there that seem very capable, and well educated, and trying to the best they can with all so little."

At the hospital, Myers presented a donation of basic medical supplies including syringes, rubber gloves, and bandages from MediSend.

MediSend is an organization that recycles medical supplies from wealthy countries to supply people in countries like Afghanistan with those basic medical needs, said Myers.

After the hospital, Myers toured the Alla Uddin Orphanage. Children from ages four to fourteen lined up to greet Myers when she arrived. As she walked up to the entrance of the hospital, two young Afghan girls showered her with sunflower petals.

Myers then toured the orphanage that serves as a school as well. She walked the hallways of the dorm and in one bunk bed-filled room, a young Afghan boy pleaded to the American woman before him in Dari, "Please help us, please help us, please help us."



A young Afghan girl presents a bouquet of flowers to Mary Jo Myers at the Rabia Balkhi Hospital in Kabul. Myers was on a Middle Eastern tour with her husband, Gen. Richard Myers.

Through a translator, Myers responded, "you have a lot of people here who care for you and a lot of people in the U.S. who want to help, so don't you worry."

"(Myers) is the good-will ambassador for her husband," said Mary E. Turner, the civilian executive assistant to Gen. Myers. "People are drawn to her, they want to tell her their problems, and she wants to help."

Myers said that this trip will remain with her and she hopes to keep some

sort of journal of her visit to Afghanistan.

"I want to retain some of these memories that are so poignant, so touching, and to be able to share them with friends and family," she said.

"I'm also asked to speak from time to time, and so they may become a part of a speech I'm making to a women's conference."

For Myers, "These stories are just too incredible; too wonderful not to share."



Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Alleged victim sustained injuries that proves non-consensual

ESPN – The case against Kobe Bryant will focus on injuries suffered by the alleged victim and the prosecution's belief that Bryant intentionally deceived law enforcement officials, sources familiar with the prosecution's case have told *ESPN* and *ABC News*.



Kobe Bryant

Those sources claim that Bryant met his alleged victim when she gave him a tour of the Lodge & Spa at Cordillera, during which he extended an invitation for the woman to come to his room later that evening, which she accepted.

The 19-year-old woman did go to Bryant's room the night of June 30, where she spent less than half an hour, according to the sources.

ABC News sources claim that the two engaged in some consensual sexual activity in Bryant's room, but that the intercourse that took place was not consensual. Those same sources say that the alleged victim sustained some physical injuries, which Eagle County District Attorney Mark Hurlburt and his staff plan to say prove that the sex was not consensual.

According to *ESPN's* sources, prosecutors also believe that Bryant intentionally deceived police officers and that his statements to them were inconsistent.

The Los Angeles Lakers guard is free on bond pending an Aug. 6 court hearing during which he will be formally advised of the charge against him.

Baylor player died from gunshot wounds

WACO, Texas — Baylor basketball player Patrick Dennehy died of gunshot wounds to the head and was killed in the field where his body was found, according to a preliminary autopsy report released Wednesday.

Dennehy's official cause of death is homicide, the Southwestern Institute of Forensic Sciences in Dallas said in its report.

The report does not specify how many times Dennehy was shot, whether he suffered any other wounds or when he died. The complete autopsy was expected to take several more weeks.

The one-page preliminary report was released Wednesday to Belinda Summers, a justice of the peace in McLennan County, where the remains of the 21-year-old athlete were found Friday in a grassy field about four miles from campus. Dennehy had been missing about six weeks.

Investigators had searched earlier in the week at nearby gravel pits, a site police say was provided to them by Carlton Dotson, Dennehy's roommate and former teammate, who is charged with murder.

Dotson was arrested July 21 after telling FBI agents he shot Dennehy, according to the arrest warrant affidavit.

After his arrest, Dotson told *The Associated Press* that he "didn't confess to anything." Dotson, 21, remains jailed without bail in his home state of Maryland pending extradition to Texas.

Dotson's attorney, Grady Irvin, did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday.

Two newspapers have reported that a gun and shell casings were found near Dennehy's body when it was discovered.

The *Waco Tribune-Herald* reported Wednesday that the gun was a .32-caliber revolver that belonged to Dennehy, according to an unidentified source close to the investigation. Authorities also found a number of live .32-caliber rounds, the newspaper reported. There was no evidence the revolver had been fired, but officials recovered nearby shell casings from a 9mm pistol, according to the paper.

The *Dallas Morning News* reported Tuesday that police had found a 9mm pistol at the scene, along with some unspecified shell casings.

McLennan County sheriff's Capt. Paul Wash on Wednesday declined to say if any weapons were found near Dennehy's remains.

Dotson transferred to Baylor last year from Paris Junior College in East Texas. Dennehy, because of NCAA eligibility rules, had to sit out a year after transferring from New Mexico, where he was kicked off the team for losing his temper.

Dennehy, a 6-foot-10 center, was last seen on campus June 12; his family reported him missing June 19. His vehicle was found abandoned in a Virginia Beach, Va., parking lot the next week.

Baylor officials said a morning funeral service for Dennehy was scheduled for Aug. 7 at the Jubilee Christian Center in San Jose, Calif., near where he grew up.

Armstrong signs two-year deal with Hornets

NEW ORLEANS — Free-agent point guard Darrell Armstrong signed a two-year contract Tuesday with the New Orleans Hornets, who wanted a productive veteran to back up starter Baron Davis.



Darrell Armstrong

Armstrong has played his entire nine-year career in Orlando, averaging 11.7 points, 5.1 assists and 1.6 steals, and he's known as an aggressive defender.

"Orlando had a plan and they wanted to go younger and that's fine," said Armstrong, 35. "This is a team that definitely needed some guys off the bench and that's one thing I know I can do."

SPORTS, from Page 5

"I'm not going to try to fit in, I'm just going to play," he added. "A lot of times guys try to fit in and it's not working for them. They're not doing the things they're capable of doing. When I've got an open shot, take it. When I've got a guy wide open, make sure I'm getting him the ball."

Hornets general manager Bob Bass said he also was impressed by Armstrong's nearly 89 percent career free-throw shooting.

"I don't think the Hornets have ever had a backup to compare with a Darrell Armstrong," Bass said. "Here's a guy who can come off of that bench and immediately make something happen. We know he can change the tempo of our game."

The Hornets planned an announcement Monday, but it was held up by complications that needed NBA approval.

Armstrong's agent, Glenn Schwartzman, said the delays had nothing to do with the player's physical exam Monday or his being charged this month for battery on an officer and resisting arrest without violence.

Armstrong averaged 9.4 points and 3.9 assists for the Orlando Magic last season despite playing every game with a strained right shoulder. He had surgery after the season.

Baltimore Ravens agree to deal with first-pick Terrell Suggs

ESPN — The Baltimore Ravens on Tuesday evening reached a contract agreement with defensive end Terrell Suggs of Arizona State, the 10th overall prospect selected in the 2003 draft, and the higher of the team's two first-round choices, *ESPN.com* has learned.

Expected to move immediately into the starting lineup at the right outside linebacker spot in Baltimore's 3-4 scheme, Suggs last season established an NCAA record for sacks, with 24. For his three-year college career, Suggs had 44 sacks and an amazing 65½ tackles for loss in 36 appearances and 34 starts.

Suggs, 20, will sign a five-year contract that, in terms of upfront money, total base value and potential escalators, is among the top deals in the first round, a solid increase over the contract in the corresponding slot of the 2002 draft.

"Terrell is 20 years old, and in five years he will become the youngest free agent in the history of the game," said Suggs' agent, Gary Wichard. "When he's 25, he's going to break the bank."

The initial signing bonus for the contract is \$2 million and the second-tier option bonus is \$4.25 million. There is also a guaranteed minimum playing time incentive of \$1.05 million. So the combined bonuses, fully guaranteed, total \$7.3 million and will be paid out by the end of Suggs' second season in the league, which is a very favorable distribution schedule.

In addition, the base salary for 2003 is \$1.1 million, and the base value of the contract is \$10.09 million. Suggs can earn up to an additional \$5 million in "escalators," which are largely based on his sack totals.

Suggs' stock dropped somewhat in the weeks preceding the draft because of pedestrian 40-yard times. But it was still difficult to ignore his pure pass rush skills, closing speed, and innate feel for attacking the pocket from the edge. Being drafted by the Ravens ought to represent a good fit, since Suggs is short of a hybrid player, and the rush position in the 3-4 defense typically commands a player who has defensive and line-backer abilities.

After winning the Bronko Nagurski Trophy, the Lombardi Trophy and the Morris Trophy in his junior season, Suggs, known to his friends as "T-Sizzles," opted to forego his final college season.

Air Force coach exits for new wings

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Air Force Academy base-



ball coach Reed Peters resigned Wednesday to take the same position at Feather River College in Quincy, Calif.

Peters was 88-134 in four seasons. He won more Mountain West games in his first three years than any other Air Force coach did in the same period.

"Reed did an excellent job when he was here and he will be missed," athletic director Col. Randall Spetman said.

"Hurry up mister, other kids wanna' play."



kevin_kilgore@hotmail.com

By Kevin Kilgore

Laugh Support